

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 5, 6, and 19 are amended, thereby leaving Claims 1-4, 7-18, and 20-42 unchanged.

Interview

Applicant's attorneys appreciate the Examiner's time and consideration and the Examiner's Supervisor's (Examiner Kammie Cuneo) time and consideration during the telephone interview on July 26, 2005. During the interview, Applicant's attorney Stephen A. Gigot and the Examiner discussed the rejections in the present Office action, as explained in greater detail below. In addition, the Examiner's Supervisor noted that the rejections of record under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) do not appear to meet the limitations of the Applicant's proposed Claims 5 and 19. Accordingly, Applicant has included his proposed amendments to Claims 5 and 19 in the present response.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,856,253 ("Jou"). Claims 1-5 and 14-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,620,376 ("Gingher"). Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 1

Independent Claim 1 defines a hanger for supporting a device, the hanger comprising a housing having a face positioned substantially vertically, and a nonlinear slot cut into the face, the slot having a first end and a second end, the first end being closed and the second end being opened.

Jou does not teach or suggest, among other things, a face positioned substantially vertically and a nonlinear slot cut into the face. Rather, Jou discloses a fixed element 3 having a base portion, outwardly extending lips 32, and a horizontally extending channel defined between the base portion and the outwardly extending lips 32. Moreover, the path extending outwardly from the base of the fixing element 3 extends linearly outwardly between the ends of the outwardly extending lips 32. Similarly, the main element 1 of Jou includes an inner side and

downwardly extending side walls which define a linear channel. The grooves 12, 13 positioned along the side wall of the main element 1 of Jou are also linear.

For these and other reasons, Jou does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of independent Claim 1.

Gingher does not cure the deficiencies of Jou. Specifically, Gingher does not teach or suggest, among other things, a nonlinear slot cut into the face, the slot having a first end and a second end, the first end being closed and the second end being opened. Rather, the clothes rack 10 of Gingher includes a vertical wall 19, which defines a generally linear slot. Other slots extend through a horizontal flange 20 and through a second vertical wall 50. However, as also shown in Fig. 50, these slots are not cut into the face of the vertical wall 19.

For these and other reasons, Gingher does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of independent Claim 1. Accordingly, independent Claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-4 and 31-36 depend from independent Claim 1 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Independent Claim 5

Independent Claim 5 defines a hanger for supporting a device, the hanger comprising a face lying in a substantially vertical plane positioned substantially vertically, a substantially vertical slot cut into the face, the slot having a first end and a second end, the first end being closed and the second end opening into a receiving area, and at least one substantially vertical slot branch extending from the slot at an acute angle and having a closed end, the at least one slot branch having a substantially constant width that is substantially the same as the width of the slot.

Jou does not teach or suggest, among other things, a face lying in a substantially vertical plane positioned substantially vertically, a substantially vertical slot cut into the face, the slot having a first end and a second end, the first end being closed and the second end opening into a receiving area, and at least one substantially vertical slot branch extending from the slot at an acute angle and having a closed end, the at least one slot branch having a substantially constant width that is substantially the same as the width of the slot. Rather, Jou discloses a fixed element 3 having a base portion, outwardly extending lips 32, and a horizontally extending channel defined between the base portion and the outwardly extending lips 32. The generally linear channel includes a narrow inlet defined between the lips 32. As shown in Fig. 1 of Jou, the

width of the opening defined by the opposed ends of the lips 32 is substantially smaller than the width between the end of one of the lips 32 and the side wall of the fixed element 3. Similarly, the main element 1 of Jou includes an inner side and downwardly extending side walls which define a linear channel, which is open at both ends. In addition, the grooves 12, 13 positioned along the side wall of the main element 1 of Jou are also open at both ends and are substantially parallel to the linear channel defined by the side walls of the main element 1.

For these and other reasons, Jou does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of independent Claim 5.

Gingher does not cure the deficiencies of Jou. Specifically, Gingher does not teach or suggest, among other things, a substantially vertical slot cut into the face and at least one substantially vertical slot branch extending from the slot at an acute angle and having a closed end, the at least one slot branch having a substantially constant width that is substantially the same as the width of the slot. Rather, the clothes rack 10 of Gingher includes a generally planar vertical wall 19 and a horizontal flange 20, which extends rearwardly from the vertical wall 19. As shown in Fig. 19 of Gingher, a generally linear slot extends through the vertical wall 19 and extends linearly along the height of the vertical wall 19. The slot also connects two generally circular openings. As also shown in Fig. 10 of Gingher, no other slot extends through the vertical wall 19.

For these and other reasons, Gingher does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of independent Claim 5. Accordingly, independent Claim 5 is allowable.

Independent Claim 6

Independent Claim 6 defines an electronic device for mounting on a substantially vertical surface, the electronic device comprising a front face, the front face including a display, a back face opposite the front face, the back face lying in a substantially vertical plane, and a top hanger formed on the back face, the top hanger including a nonlinear top slot having a substantially constant width and a first, closed end and a second, opened end, the top slot lying substantially in a vertical plane defined by the back face, the second end opening into a top receiving area that is at least twice as wide as the top slot.

Jou does not teach or suggest, among other things, an electronic device including, among other things, an electronic device for mounting on a substantially vertical surface, the electronic

device comprising a back face lying in a substantially vertical plane, and a top hanger formed on the back face, the top hanger including a nonlinear top slot having a substantially constant width and a first, closed end and a second, opened end, the top slot lying substantially in a vertical plane defined by the back face. Rather, the picture frame of Jou includes a main element 1 having an arcuately shaped inner side and a corresponding arcuately shaped outer side. Lateral sides of the main element 1 extend outwardly from the inner side and define a linear channel, which extends across the inner side of the main element 1 and appears to be open at both ends.

In addition, Jou does not teach or suggest a second end of a nonlinear top slot opening into a top receiving area that is at least twice as wide as the top slot. Rather, the linear channel defined by the side walls of the main element 1 has a constant width along its entire length.

Moreover, the mere fact that “electrical wire can be concealed in the groove 12 of the main element 1, thereby protecting the wire from being damaged as well as decorating the wall” does not make the picture frame of Jou into an “electrical device”. Column 2, lines 33-37.

For these and other reasons, Jou does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of independent Claim 6. Accordingly, independent Claim 6 is allowable. Claims 7-13 depend from independent Claim 6 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Independent Claim 14

Independent Claim 14 defines a hanger for supporting a device, the hanger comprising a housing having a hanger face positioned substantially vertically, the hanger face being spaced-apart from a back face of the device by a sidewall, a chamber formed behind the hanger face and substantially surrounded by the sidewall, a slot cut into the hanger face, the slot lying substantially in a vertical plane defined by the hanger face and opening at one end into a receiving area, and at least two flanges, one on each side of the receiving area and angled in toward the open end of the slot.

Jou does not teach or suggest, among other things, a housing having a hanger face positioned substantially vertically, a slot cut into the hanger face, the slot lying substantially in a vertical plane defined by the hanger face and opening at one end into a receiving area, and at least two flanges, one on each side of the receiving area and angled in toward the open end of the slot. Rather, the picture frame of Jou includes a main element 1 having an arcuately shaped inner side and a corresponding arcuately shaped outer side. The sides of the main element 1

extend outwardly and define a linear channel, which extends across the inner side of the main element 1. As shown in Fig. 1 of Jou, the sides of the main element 1 are parallel along the length of the main element 1. Therefore, the sides of the main element 1 are not “angled in”. Similarly, an engaging member 11 extends across the inner side of the main element 1 parallel to the side walls of the main element 1. Accordingly, the engaging member 11 also is not “angled in” toward either of the side walls of the main element 1.

For these and other reasons, Jou does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of independent Claim 14.

Gingher does not teach or suggest, among other things, a housing having a hanger face positioned substantially vertically, a slot cut into the hanger face, the slot lying substantially in a vertical plane defined by the hanger face and opening at one end into a receiving area, and at least two flanges, one on each side of the receiving area and angled in toward the open end of the slot. Rather, the clothes rack 10 of Gingher includes a generally planar wall 19 and a horizontal flange 20, which extends rearwardly from the vertical wall 19. As shown in Fig. 19 of Gingher, a generally linear slot extends through the vertical wall 19 and extends linearly along the height of the vertical wall 19. As also shown in Fig. 10 of Gingher, the slot also connects two generally circular openings. No portion of the linear slot is “angled in” because the side walls that define the slot in the planar wall 19 are parallel. Similarly, the vertical wall 19 is a planar member and does not have any elements which could be considered “flanges”.

For these and other reasons, Gingher does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of independent Claim 14. Accordingly, independent Claim 14 is allowable. Claims 15-18 and 37-42 depend from independent Claim 14 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Independent Claim 19

Independent Claim 19 defines a hanger for supporting a device on a projection extending outwardly from a wall, the hanger comprising a housing having a hanger face, the hanger face defining a substantially planar hanger face surface, and a nonlinear slot extending into the hanger face and lying in the planar hanger face surface and being engageable with the projection to secure the device to the wall, the slot defining an entry path for the projection, an exit path for the projection, and at least one locking path for the projection, the locking path being different than the exit path.

Jou does not teach or suggest, among other things, a housing having a hanger face, the hanger face defining a substantially planar hanger face surface, and a nonlinear slot extending into the hanger face and lying in the planar hanger face surface and being engageable with the projection to secure the device to the wall. Rather, Jou discloses a fixing element 3 having a base portion, outwardly extending lips 32, and a horizontally extending channel defined between the base portion and the outwardly extending lips 32. Moreover, if one end of the fixing element 3 is interpreted to provide "a substantially planar hanger face surface", the base of the fixing element 3 and the ends of the lips 32 would define a *linear* path extending upwardly from the base of the fixing element 3 toward an opening defined between the lips 32.

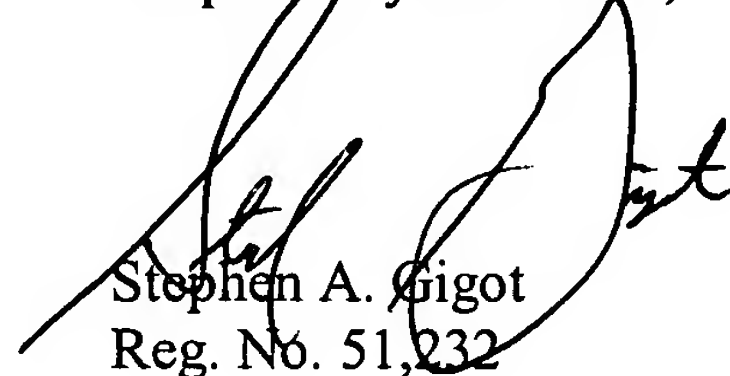
In addition, Jou does not teach or suggest a slot defining an entry path for the projection, an exit path for the projection, and at least one locking path for the projection, the locking path being different than the exit path. Rather, when an engagement member 11 is connected to the fixing element 3 of Jou, the engagement member 11 is inserted along a path between the lips 32. If the engagement member 11 can be removed after having been connected to the fixing element 3, it appears that the engagement member 11 would be moved outwardly and away from the fixing element 3 along the same path.

For these and other reasons, Jou does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations of independent Claim 19. Accordingly, independent Claim 19 is allowable. Claims 20-30 depend from independent Claim 19 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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